

Keston Common, Ravensbourne Open space and Padmall Wood Site Report

FoKC AGM 2020

Six months has passed since I last made a report on the site so hopefully this will serve as an update on what has happened over the past few months and what is coming up in the future.

I am pleased to see that work parties are on average remaining in double figures along with some new faces joining us. Which will remind me I'll have to purchase a few more biscuits!

There has been a lot of work over the winter season, which has included the following highlights:

- Opening up of the area around the war memorial to enhance the acid grassland
- Removal of invasive non-native species in a number of locations around the site
- Under planting with new hazel whips an area previously cleared of INNS
- Coppicing and ride widening of Padmall Wood.
- Island clearance and successional scrub management on the bank side at Pond 4.
- Gorse control on the heathland and coppicing of gorse on the SAM
- Scrub control and stump winching in the bog/ valley mire

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who make effort to keep the site looking pristine through your littler picking as well as getting stuck into to work parties.

2020 is due to be busy year (no surprises there!) all of the usual tasks are due to continue to maintain and enhance the valuable priority habitats that the site is comprised of. New to the programme will be maintenance of the regrowth in Padmall Wood such as control of holly and other invasive species.

As well as the day to day physical management of the site there is also all the survey efforts which go into to keeping our records up to data to help inform the site management and I would like to thank all of you who have who have helped with this. I am hoping this year to increase the survey effort further and hope that more of you will be willing to assist with this following another survey taster day later in the year.

I would like to thank all of you for the time and effort you invest in the site and look forward to continuing to with you.

Steven Lofting

RSPB Biodiversity Advisor (*idverde*)

Site Manager